

April 7, 2005 - DOC Methamphetamine Treatment Unit

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Indiana Department of Correction Responds to the Emergent Increases of Methamphetamine with Substance Abuse Treatment Unit

Donahue Says...

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“The treatment unit at Miami is my first step towards helping inmates recover before they re-enter the public. The CLIFF program assists offenders in recovery from methamphetamine and all other associated drug addiction. The unit provides inmates with a positive environment in which they learn the social and cognitive skills to successfully stay out of the criminal justice system. I am confident that our professionally-trained staff will offer the best environment to help the inmates learn to live in recovery”

The Indiana Department of Correction has developed and implemented a specialized intensive substance abuse treatment unit and program entitled “Clean Lifestyle is Freedom Forever” (CLIFF). This unit was developed in response to the expanding inmate population who require treatment for methamphetamine abuse. The 204-bed unit is located at the Miami Correctional Facility and is scheduled to open on April 11.

As law enforcement agencies continue to expand their efforts in controlling the production and distribution of methamphetamine, an increasing number of offenders are entering the criminal justice system in need of treatment for methamphetamine abuse or dependence. “Methamphetamine poses a severe and urgent threat to public health and safety,” said J. David Donahue, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction. “Our team is committed to any matters concerning the public safety and public justice, and will do everything possible to help find solutions.”

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Inmate admission criterion for the CLIFF Therapeutic Unit includes:

- A significant history of substance abuse with significant impairment caused by methamphetamine use
- A projected release date that falls within 14 and 24 months at time of admission
- No institutional incidents involving weapons or assault for at least one year.
- Must have good disciplinary conduct history

Offenders who participate in the CLIFF Therapeutic Community benefit in several ways:

- They complete their sentences in a conducive rehabilitative environment
- They learn to restructure their thinking and change their behavior
- They develop a comprehensive re-entry plan that includes viable life skills, relapse prevention strategies, and best placement for continuing growth
- They become eligible for up to a six month time-reduction

The Department of Correction is one of many agencies working aggressively to address the increased methamphetamine abuse in Indiana. Nationally, the federal Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) said 15,994 methamphetamine labs were found to be producing the drug in 2004. The DEA found the greatest concentration in the Midwest.